

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: TO VIMA STORY STATES ISRAEL AND IRAN PROVIDING ARMS TO
TURKEY WITH THE "AID OF WASHINGTON"

1. TO VIMA ON JULY 6 PUBLISHED A STORY DATED
WASHINGTON JULY 5 BY "OUR CORRESPONDENT" ALLEGING THAT
ISRAEL AND IRAN HAVE BECOME NEW ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF
ARMS SUPPLIES FOR TURKEY IN THE WAKE OF THE CUT-OFF OF
U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE LAST FEBRUARY.

2. SPECIFICALLY, THE REPORT ALLEGES THAT SINCE MARCH,
TURKEY HAS SECURED FROM ISRAEL MISSILES, LIGHT AIRCRAFT
AND SMALL PATROL BOATS. ACCORDING TO THE STORY 150
"GABRIEL" CLASS (FOR NAVAL USE) AND EIGHT "SAFIR"
CLASS (FOR AIR FORCE USE) MISSILES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED
AND TWO PATROL BOATS CARRYING THREE "TWIN MISSILE MOUNTS"
EACH. ADDITIONALLY, THE STORY ASSERTS THAT TURKEY HAS
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PURCHASED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF "UZZI" SUBMACHINE GUNS

WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO IZMIR BY A TURKISH FREIGHTER. THE "GABRIEL" AND "SAFIR" MISSILES HAD ALLEGEDLY BEEN CARRIED BY AN ISRAELI SHIP TO A HARBOR NEAR IZMIR. BY THE END OF APRIL, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, TURKISH ORDERS TO ISRAELI ARMS INDUSTRY SOURCES HAD ALLEGEDLY TOTALLED FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS.

3. THE TO VIMA REPORT FURTHER STATES THAT TALKS WERE HELD IN NEW YORK IN APRIL AND MAY BETWEEN TURKISH AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED PURCHASE BY TURKEY OF FOUR "ARAVA" TYPE AIRCRAFT BUT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD STALLED OVER DELIVERY TERMS. TURKISH-ISRAELI TALKS WERE REPORTEDLY HELD IN WASHINGTON IN MAY IN WHICH THE TURKS SHOWED INTEREST IN PURCHASING ADDITIONAL CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS INCLUDING TORPEDO BOATS, RADIO-TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, AND ELECTRONIC TARGET-ACQUISITION APPARATUS; THESE PURCHASES WOULD TOTAL ABOUT FORTY MILLION DOLLARS AND "THERE ARE INDICATIONS" (SAYS TO VIMA) THAT THEY WILL BE DELIVERED IN STAGES COMMENCING NEXT MONTH.

4. THE REPORT CONTINUES BY ASSERTING THAT THE WHITE HOUSE, THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE "ALL AWARE" OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THAT MOREOVER, IT WAS THE PENTAGON THAT SUGGESTED TO TURKEY THAT ISRAEL COULD BE A SOLUTION FOR ITS SHORT-FALL IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT RESULTING FROM THE U.S. ARMS CUT-OFF. THE TO VIMA REPORT ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE PENTAGON HAD EXERCISED ITS GOOD OFFICES TO RESOLVE SOME DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD ARISEN IN THE COURSE OF TURKISH-ISRAELI TALKS IN BOTH NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

5. AS FOR IRANIAN-TURKISH ARMS AGREEMENTS, THE TO VIMA STORY ASSERTS THAT WASHINGTON PLAYED A "VERY SMALL ROLE". THE STORY INSTEAD CLAIMS THAT THREE MONTHS BEFORE LAST FEBRUARY'S ARMS CUT-OFF, TEHRAN HAD PROVIDED TO TURKEY SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF SPARE PARTS FOR MILITARY VEHICLES AND TANKS (WORTH ABOUT TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS) ON A "LOAN BASIS". THE REPORT ALLEGED THAT IN EARLY FEBRUARY, "FORTY-FOUR CASES OF SPARE PARTS "CLEARLY BEARING MARKS OF U.S. ARMY" WERE TRANSPORTED BY PLANE FROM TEHRAN TO TURKEY. THE STORY CONCLUDED BY REPORTING THAT "INFORMATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH HAS YET TO BE VERIFIED IN EVERY PARTICULAR" SUGGESTS THAT IRAN HAS AGREED TO TRANSFER TO TURKEY SPARE PARTS FOR F-4, F-104 AND F-86 AMERICAN AIRCRAFT, WHICH PARTS ARE NOW STORED IN AMERICAN BASES ON IRANIAN SOIL. THE ALLEGATION IS MADE IN THE SAME CONTEXT THAT AN AIRBASE IN THE VICINITY OF TEHRAN WAS USED AT LEAST TWICE IN APRIL-MAY OF THIS YEAR FOR THE TRANSFER OF AIRPLANE SPARE PARTS TO TURKEY. KUBISCH

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